

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR MARK RIDLEY-THOMAS

January 15, 2013

Implementation of Athens Way Horse Stable Task Force Recommendations

On June 18, 2012, a fire broke out in a portion of a horse stable located at 13107 Athens Way in the unincorporated community of West Rancho Dominguez, where three horses and a goat perished. This site had been the site of numerous fires, building and safety citations, animal cruelty cases, and criminal investigations.

Due to the complex and numerous legal, health, safety, and environmental issues involved on this site, on July 10, 2012, the Board of Supervisors directed the Chief Executive Officer to convene the Athens Way Horse Stables Task Force (Task Force), which consists of the Departments of Animal Care and Control, Public Health, Public Works, Regional Planning, District Attorney, County Counsel, Fire, and Sheriff.

Among other directives, the Task Force was asked to develop policy recommendations to prevent similar unresolved and compounded multi-agency code violations on properties within unincorporated areas and recommend development standards for commercial horse stables and equestrian facilities that would remedy the issues raised at the Athens Horse Stables property within the West Rancho Dominguez-Victoria Community Standards District.

Over the past six months, the Task Force has worked diligently to develop a streamlined approach for identifying, monitoring and addressing nuisance properties. In addition, through the leadership of the Department of Regional Planning, the Task Force developed thoughtful standards for safely accommodating commercial equestrian uses within an urbanized environment. The recommendations of the Task Force are comprehensively outlined in reports to the Board of Supervisors, dated October 12, 2012 and November 30, 2012.

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The coordinated activities of the Task Force should proceed and the proposed standards for commercial equestrian facilities should be formally incorporated in the West Rancho Dominguez-Victoria Community Standards District Ordinance and other related ordinances.

I THEREFORE MOVE THAT THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS:

- Approve the policy recommendations provided by the Athens Way Horse Stables Task Force summarized in the Chief Executive Officer's October 12, 2012 and November 30, 2012 reports, and direct the participating departments to continue to address properties within unincorporated areas with multi-agency code violations through the Nuisance Abatement Team;
- Direct the Task Force – Information Technology Subcommittee, led by Public Works, to develop an interagency data management system to efficiently share information about nuisance properties through a consolidated reporting process regarding Nuisance Abatement Team investigations;
- Direct County Counsel, in consultation with the respective departments, to draft the proposed ordinance or ordinances for consideration by the Regional Planning Commission, where appropriate, and by the Board of Supervisors that would amend the applicable Los Angeles County Codes: Title 10, for the Department of Animal Care and Control; Title 11, for the Department of Public Health; and Title 22, for the Department of Regional Planning, in order to update regulations on commercial equestrian facilities within the boundaries of the West Rancho Dominguez-Victoria Community Standards District; and
- Direct the Department of Regional Planning to assess whether the updated regulations on commercial equestrian facilities should be incorporated into other community standards districts and land use plans for other areas within the Second Supervisorial District.

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